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Vol. 44, No. 29 • July 26, 2001

POST SHORTS

Recycling schedule



The recycling pickup for Wednesday, August 1, is plastic, glass and metal. Put items in blue bags and place them on the curb.

2001 Miller Genuine Draft Country Music Concert

John Montgomery, Michael Diamond Rio and Tim Rushlow will perform in the 2001 Miller Genuine Draft country concert, Aug. 18, on Aberdeen Proving Ground's Shine Sports Field, rain or shine.

Tickets may be purchased through Morale, Welfare and Recreation outlets such as the APG Bowling Alley, through the Information, Ticketing and Registration office located in the APG Recreation Center or through Ticketmaster, 1-800-551-SEAT.

Tickets cost \$20 in advance, \$25 at the gate. Gates open at 6 p.m., with the show starting at 7:30 p.m.

Volunteers are needed in a variety of capacities to assist before, during and after the concert. Fans should bring lawn chairs or blankets for the lawn-seating event.

For more information, call 410-278-4011/4621.

ACS presents Teen Talk

This program runs July 31 through Aug. 21. The workshops will be held every Tuesday and Thursday at Army Community Service, building 2754, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served at each workshop.

Topics will include decision making, diversity, drugs and alcohol, self esteem, financial management and relationships teens face.

All teenagers who complete five workshops are invited to attend the ACS block party with D.J. BUGG, on Aug. 23, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Workshops are free and open to all teenagers ages 13 to 19. Space is limited so contact Laura Reich or Marie Mastracco, 410-278-7474 or 7478 to confirm a seat.

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Grant assumes command of 143rd Ordnance Battalion

Spidel leaves memories, friends at APG



Photo courtesy APG PHOTO LAB

Col. Mardi U. Mark, Aberdeen Proving Ground Garrison and deputy installation commander, enjoys a light moment with outgoing commander Col. Robert J. Spidel, following the garrison change of command ceremony on Fanshaw Field 24 July. Coverage of the ceremony, which included soldiers from the German Armed Forces Command for the U.S. and Canada, will appear in next week's issue of the APG News.

By Yvonne Johnson
APG News

When Col. Robert J. Spidel assumed command of the U.S. Army Aberdeen Proving Ground Garrison on July 24, 1998, he took on the task of managing the operations of the Aberdeen and Edgewood areas, taking care of the garrison's 1,123 civilians and 71 active-duty military members while hosting 59 tenant units, 34 satellite activities and 24 private organizations.

Spidel expressed pride and admiration for the APG community.

"The people here are APG's greatest assets," he said. "It will never cease to amaze me how much they have accomplished and are still accomplishing in the face of budget cuts and reduced spending."

Describing his tenure as "sometimes frustrating but more often rewarding," he said he learned a lot, and that he leaves with warm memories and some satisfaction of having done the best he could with the resources available to him.

"I learned how to deal with people, how to handle frustrations and how to develop a thick skin," he said, adding that he had "some of the best people around to work with."

Spidel said he appreciated the help of tenant organizations who "did whatever they could to help" and civilian leaders from the surrounding community and the state who are "very supportive of APG."

"The post has a close working relationship with local mayors, state delegates, and congressional and senatorial leaders, all of whom have a vested interest in working with the proving ground," Spidel said. "Together we accom-

See SPIDEL, page 4

Family Action Plan Symposium concerns addressed

By Sheila Little
APG News

Issues raised during the most recent Aberdeen Proving Ground Army Family Action Plan Symposium, held April 10 to 12 at Top of the Bay, covered health care, housing, child care, youth, and soldier, retiree and civilian worker issues.

Following the symposium, agencies were given the opportunity to look into issue resolution. This is the first in a series of articles addressing the issues raised during the symposium.

Issue -- Quality of provider service

Some Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic providers seem unwilling to consider patient concerns when diagnosing and treating health problems. This attitude can possibly hinder the accuracy of the diagnosis, impede appropriate medical care, add to patient frustration, and hinder patient confidence in the health care provider.

Recommendations -- Increase the number of providers in the busiest primary care clinics, such as pediatrics. Establish and monitor a hotline for patient feedback regarding service. Research, evaluate and take appropriate corrective action where necessary.

Resolution -- The number of providers in all primary care clinics within KUSAHC is determined by

TRICARE enrollment formulations together with appropriate funding from the Department of the Army. Should enrollment in any of the primary care clinics rise substantially, an additional provider can be provided.

KUSAHC recently completed a trial of patient satisfaction questionnaires within the General Medicine Clinic. The plan is to expand the use of questionnaires to other clinics within KUSAHC.



Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic

In addition, personnel from the patient assistance office, located on the third floor at KUSAHC, are available to assist anyone wishing to register a written compliment or complaint. The patient advocate is Jan Spellman, 410-278-1724.

All written complaints concerning health care providers must receive a written response from the subject of the complaint, within five working days. The complaint and answer are then reviewed by the patient assistance officer, clinic commander or deputy installation commander for clinic services. A variety of consequences will be considered based on the validity and severity of the complaint and the provider's response. In all cases, a customer who initiates a formal complaint will receive a written response.

Issue -- Transportation for youths

Recommendation -- Provide a shuttle bus or van to transport youths from the housing areas to the youth centers.

Resolution -- One 15-passenger van was purchased within the last year to provide additional transportation for the youth services community. A request to purchase an additional van, costing approximately \$45,000, is in the works and will be purchased once the funds become available. In addition to picking up youths throughout the installation and providing youth activity transportation between Aberdeen and Edgewood, an outreach program for those military youths living off-post is being considered. Past surveys indicate that those living off-post are not

See AFAP SYMPOSIUM, page 5

Construction begins on MAPS facility scheduled to open in 2003



Photo by CONRAD JOHNSON

Discussing plans for the Munitions Assessment and Processing System to be constructed in the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground are, from left to right, Donald R. Benton, systems manager for the MAPS, James L. Bacon, Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization, and Lt. Col. Christopher M. Ross, Product Manager for Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel.

By Sheila Little
APG News

In a continuing effort to protect the community and environment, Aberdeen Proving Ground crossed another threshold designed to safely destroy chemical and smoke munitions July 11, with a ground breaking ceremony at the site of the future Munitions Assessment and Processing System facility on the Edgewood Area of APG.

Co-hosted by Col. Robert J. Spidel, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander, and Lt. Col. Christopher Ross, Product Manager for Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel, the ceremony marked the beginning of construction for an APG-based viable alternative to open-air

detonation of chemical and smoke-filled munitions.

The MAPS is a one-of-a-kind facility designed to allow operators to separate chemically-filled munitions and the explosives found in the munitions body, into two waste streams — the chemical fill, and the explosives.

The MAPS provides containment during the separation process to prevent the release of chemical agent in the event of an accidental detonation. Separated explosives are then detonated inside a commercial detonation vessel within the MAPS. After the separation process, the chemical fill and scrap metal is processed in treatment units, some of which are located on APG.

See MAPS, page 5

Post Shorts

SHORTS, from front page

Women’s Equality Day set for Aug. 22

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Women’s Program will host the Women’s Equality Day ceremonies on Aug. 22, 1:30 p.m., at Top of the Bay. Awards will recognize those individuals and organizations exemplary in their support of FWP goals. Award categories are outstanding woman of the year, supervisor/manager of the year and activity most supportive FWP goals.

For questions concerning this event, call Sheryl Coleman, APG FWP chairperson, 410-306-0173, or Diane Siler, FWP manager, 410-278-1137.

UMUC to hold open house

University of Maryland University College will hold an open house on Wednesday, Aug. 1, 4 to 6 p.m. to showcase its programs and services in Harford County. The open house will be held in the Education Services, building 3146, on Raritan Avenue, Aberdeen Proving Ground.

The \$30 admission fee will be waived for new students who register at the open house for their first UMUC course.

Advisors and representatives will be available to answer questions. Also present will be a representative from the EXCEL program, which enables students to receive college credit for learning acquired through work and life experience. Students may complete admissions applications and register for fall classes during the open house.

For more information, call UMUC’s APG office, 410-272-8269, or 410-278-4632.

Reward for information on missing laptops

The Aberdeen Proving Ground Resident Agency Central Intelligence Division is offering a \$4,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the perpetrator(s) responsible for the larceny of 30 Panasonic notebook computers from the Ordnance Center and Schools which occurred sometime between July 3 and July 5. Any information concerning this crime should be provided to the CID immediately. This reward expires on Oct. 9. Contact the APG Resident Agency at 410-278-5261 or 5262.

Reward offered for information on eagle talon theft

Aberdeen Proving Ground Marine and Wildlife Law Enforcement officials are offering a reward of up to \$2,500 through the Bald Eagle Protection Act for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons who removed the talons from a dead bald eagle here last month.

According to special agent Ralph Plummer, the eagle with its talons removed, was found in the Aberdeen Area’s Spesutie Island on June 18.

“Removing the talons from a bald eagle is a criminal offense with penalties of \$5,000 or imprisonment for not more than one year or both,” Plummer said. “In fact, possessing or handling a bald eagle or its parts is a serious offense. We’re going to make every effort to find the person or persons who did this.”

According to Plummer, the bird’s remains were sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Forensic Laboratory to be examined. Investigation of the incident continues.

Automated pharmacy system to experience down time Aug. 30 to Sept. 3

Due to changes in automation systems at Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic and the entire National Capital Region, the pharmacies will experience system down time beginning Aug. 30 and extend through Sept. 3. The system will return to normal operations on Sept. 4.

During the down time period, the ability to process prescriptions and especially refills will be extremely limited. If you will need a refill during this time period, call in your prescription at least 72 hours before Aug. 30. The refill telephone number is 1-800-248-6337, or visit the Web site, <http://consult.wrampc.amedd.army.mil/refills>.

For assistance, contact the pharmacy at 410-278-1945 or 410-278-1946.

Closure of EA Fuel Distribution Point

Since July 12, the Edgewood Area fuel distribution site, building E-4017, has been closed and is only manually operated by a designated attendant. This is being done in order to maintain customer support during installation of the new Fuels Automated System. Hours of manual operations are Monday through Friday, 7:30 to 9 a.m. and 2:30 to 4 p.m.

On ozone action days, there will be no manual fueling between 2:30 and 4 p.m.

On RDO Fridays, there will be no manual operations.

This course of action will continue until further notice, at which time the FAS system will be fully implemented.

For more information, contact Richard Conway, 410-436-3886.


Summer study on human hearing

The U.S. Army Research Laboratory will conduct two studies: an outdoor field study on sound detection and distance estimation, and an indoor study on speech intelligibility from July through August. The studies will be conducted at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Paid listeners must be 18 to 25 years of age and not afraid of field elements (flies, bees, ticks, beetles, etc.). The total listening time will be about six hours. Each civilian listener will be paid \$100 for participating in both studies. Military volunteers will receive a Department of Army certificate of appreciation, signed by a Colonel or above, for completing 40 hours of testing.

Interested volunteers should contact Kim Fluit, 410-278-5850, Email: kfluit@arl.army.mil, or Martha Dennison, 410-278-5918, E-mail: mjdennis@arl.army.mil, between 7:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Pollution Prevention



To save water only run your dishwasher and washing machine with full loads.

-Federal Energy Management Program

New subsistence allowance available

Qualified servicemembers can receive up to \$500 a month under the Family Subsistence Supplemental Allowance, or FSSA. The new allowance program, which began May 1, is designed to help families currently on food stamps, however, all servicemembers may apply. Qualified servicemembers will receive a monthly cash allowance, not to exceed \$500.

Qualification is based on the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s gross monthly income eligibility limits based on household size. Also included in determining income eligibility are the basic allowance for subsistence, basic allowance for housing and all bonuses, special and incentive pays.

All servicemembers who think they may be eligible are highly encouraged to apply.

To apply for this nontaxable allowance, servicemembers must fill out an application at Army Community Services, building 2754.

Point of contact is Tricia Jewitt, Consumer Affairs & Financial Assistance Program manager, 410-278-4372.

Unit commanders may also call to schedule an FSSA briefing.

Manager needed at EA Thrift Shop

The Edgewood Area Thrift Shop is accepting applications for the position of manager, July 12 to Aug. 14, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays. Applicant must be a valid military ID card holder. The paid position requires one month of manager training without pay.

For more information, contact Marcey Perez, 410-676-4733, or stop by the Thrift Shop, building E-1633.

Homes needed for exchange students

Academic Year in the United States of America, or AYUSA, International would like to extend an invitation to your family to host an international exchange student. Families across the United States are welcoming talented and motivated high school students into their homes this fall. If your family enjoys exploring new cultures and nurturing youth, take a few minutes to find out more about this wonderful opportunity to share your life with a special young person.

Contact your local AYUSA representative, Daniele Johnson, 410-272-6332, or visit Web site <http://www.ayusa.org>. AYUSA International is a premier non-profit exchange organization.

APG to conduct Command and General Staff College Officers Courses

Beginning in October, the 10th Battalion, 80th Training Division will conduct classes in Phases I and III at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground. Attending class

offers many advantages over the correspondence option including access to knowledgeable instructors, the opportunity to learn from your fellow students with their expertise in a wide variety of backgrounds and a structured environment best suited for completing the course on time

Enrollment is open to active duty, active Guard and Reserve, Army Reserve and National Guard officers in the rank of captain (promotable) and above. If you plan to attend, enroll in ATTRS now to insure you have a reserved slot. The ATTRS numbers are as follows:

Phase I: School: B701
Course: 701-1-250-C3(NEW-IDT)(F)
Phase: 1
Class: 016
Phase III: School: B701
Course: 701-1-250-C3(NEW-IDT)(F)
Phase: 3
Class: 006

For more information on Phase I, contact Maj. Mark Valeri, 410-691-5201 or 410-569-4835, or E-mail Mavaleri@Regaldecision.com.

For more information on Phase III, contact Lt. Col. Jan Kolakowski, 410-436-2755 or 410-836-6712, or E-mail jekolako@sbccom.apgea.army.mil.

Learn to enrich your relationships

Army Community Service will present Enrich Your Relationships to learn the techniques of building relationships, learning respect, communication, understanding and listening skills. Day and evening classes are forming. For more information, call Marie Mastracco, ACS, 410-278-7474/7478.

Restoration Advisory Board meeting

The Installation Restoration Program will hold its monthly Restoration Advisory Board meeting on Thursday, July 26, from 7 to 9:45 p.m., at the Edgewood Senior Center on Gateway Road. The topics will include updates on the Lauderick Creek CWM Removal Action and the Bush River Study Area. Board meetings are open to the public. All APG employees and citizens are invited.

For more information, call the information line at 410-272-8842 or 1-800-APG-9998.

Scholarship opportunity to attend Harvard

Harvard University recently announced the receipt of a scholarship fund intended to benefit undergraduates who have served in the military or who are military family members.

Established in memory of Gen. James M. Gavin by his daughter Chloe J. Gavin and her husband, John F. ‘Jay’ Beatty III, both Harvard graduates, the scholarship honors Gen. Gavin’s distinguished contributions to his nation and is intended to encourage members of military families to apply to Harvard University.

Chloe Gavin and her husband understand that frequently, sending a child to Harvard—or even encouraging him or her to apply—is beyond the reach of many military families. By establishing this scholarship fund, they hope to send a message to these families that Harvard believes in admitting the best possible students from a variety of backgrounds.

It has been their experience that individuals who come from military families generally have a strong personal commitment to giving their best to whatever they do, and, in their words, ‘this is exactly the kind of commitment that Harvard looks for in its students.’

Individuals who have served in the military, as well as children of military families, will be considered for the scholarship. Harvard admits students regardless of financial circumstances and meets the full financial need of each student who qualifies for aid.

For more information on applying to Harvard, write to Harvard University, Admissions and Financial Aid, Byerly Hall, 8 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA 02138; or visit Web site, www.harvard.edu.

Ozone Action Days forecast on the Web

The Directorate of Safety, Health and Environment sends ozone notification on code orange and code red days only. Flags are hung at various locations across the installation so that residents will know of an action day. On code Orange and Red days, APG takes extra steps to help reduce air pollution, such as the closing of military vehicle gas stations (unless there is an emergency), and ceasing paint spray booth operations.

Visit the scrolling screen on the main page of www.apg.army.mil to learn more about code green and code yellow Ozone Action Day.

For information on the APG Ozone Action Days plan, contact Rachel Swearingen, DSHE, 410-306-2268.

APG News

The *APG News*, a civilian enterprise newspaper, is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the *APG News* are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the U.S. Army Garrison, Aberdeen Proving Ground. The newspaper is published weekly by the APG Public Affairs Office, ATTN: AMSSB-GIM, APG, MD 21005-5005, 410-278-1150. Printed circulation is 13,500.

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PET OF THE WEEK



Photo byYVONNE JOHNSON

Are you missing a silver belle?

A Swan Creek employee found this female tabby in the Edgewood Area. Described as extremely friendly, her front paws have been declawed and she is spayed. If no one claims Silver, the caregiver will offer her free to a good home. For more information, contact Lisa Unruh at 410-287-4655.

Ordnance Corps honors graduating lieutenants



Photo courtesy of APG PHOTO LAB
2nd Lt. Tara Fritz, distinguished graduate of the Ordnance Officer Basic Course Class 5-01, presented a donation check for \$300 to Lisa LaRosa of the American Cancer Society on behalf of Class 5-01. The class voted to present the donation rather than the traditional art print donated to U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools. LaRosa congratulated the students on their achievements and thanked them for the donation, which she stated would be put to good use in support of the American Cancer Society in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

By E. C. Starnes
OC&S

“You are leaders before you are Ordnance officers.”

Such was the advice offered by Maj. Gen. John J. Deyermund to 18 officers graduating from the Ordnance Basic Officer Course July 20.

Deyermund, deputy chief of staff for Logistics and Readiness for the U.S. Army Materiel Command, provided some advice for the Army’s newest Ordnance officers during the graduation ceremonies for Class 5-01. A total of 18 officers, including one second lieutenant from Thailand, comprised the class, which began at the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools five months ago.

Deyermund quoted General of the Army Omar N. Bradley, who noted,

“The American soldier is a proud one and he demands professional competence from his leaders.”

“You are responsible for the survival of our nation,” he told the young officers as he pointed out their responsibilities to the nation and soldiers. “Only 6 percent [of the American population] has ever served in uniform.”

“The rank of lieutenant may seem small to you, but it is large in the career of all Army officers,” he stated.

The general noted that it is often stated that noncommissioned officers are the glue that holds the Army together.

As he addressed the graduates, he spelled out several successful leadership traits that he had noted during his career.

- Maintain a sense of humor and a sense of humility.
- Your reputation is everything. It is a constant as you move through the Army and it starts here today.
- Make sure your leadership style fits your personality. Don’t try to be something you are not.
- It is critical in our profession to develop a professional reading program.
- You need to be enthusiastic.
- You must learn the best way to spend your time.
- Spend more time with soldiers than in an office.
- As an Ordnance officer you are in a specialty that is more complex than any other in the Army. This builds credibility.
- Seek responsibility and set the example. Along the way it’s okay to make mistakes.”
- Keep your soldiers informed.
- Focus on the positive.
- You need to learn from your platoon sergeants and first sergeants.
- Resist the urge to overuse electronic communications. Face-to-face is the way to go.
- Don’t focus on your offi-

cer efficiency report. Focus on doing the best job you can.

- When the day is done, go home to your family, not to the Army. Your family must come first.
- Take those vacation days. You earned them. Let your subordinates run things in your absence. That’s called training.
- Have a personal investment program.

The general then joined OC&S Assistant Commandant Col. Kone Brugh and Command and Staff Department Director Lt. Col. Suzanne Rudat in presenting diplomas and awards to the graduates.

Distinguished graduate — 2nd Lt. Tara Fritz was named the Distinguished Graduate and received the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps Association Decius Wadsworth Distinguished Award of Scholarship and the National Defense Industrial Association Award. Fritz also received the 61st Ordnance Brigade Certificate of Achievement for outstanding performance on the Army Physical Fitness Test.

Honor graduates — 2nd Lts. Karsten J. Hall, Doris L. Johnson and Jin Park were named honor graduates for

placing among the top 20 percent of their class with an academic average of more than 90 percent.

Hall, who will be assigned to Fort Stewart, Ga., also received a Command and Staff Department Certificate of Achievement in recognition of outstanding performance by achieving Expert on the rifle range.

Johnson, a member of the Louisiana Army National Guard, also received a 61st Ordnance Brigade Certificate of Achievement for outstanding performance on the Army Physical Fitness Test.

Park, who is being assigned to Fort Wainwright, Alaska, was also honored with a 61st Ordnance Brigade Certificate of Achievement for his outstanding performance on the Army Physical Fitness Test.

Association of the United States Army Award — 2nd Lt. Martin F. Vasquez, a member of the U.S. Army Reserve in Texas, was recognized with the AUSA Award for “best epitomizing the professional Ordnance soldier.”

Command and Staff Department Certificates of Achievement — Also honored for their outstanding performance in achieving Expert on the rifle range were 2nd Lt. Kevin M. Monke, who will be

assigned to Fort Lewis, Wash., and 2nd Lt. Matt J. Smith, who will be assigned to Fort Stewart, Ga.

The remaining graduates and their assignments include 2nd Lts. Matthew N. Chargualaf (Washington Army National Guard), Dana M. Embody (Fort Benning, Ga.), Beth R. Frazee (Fort Sill, Okla.), Donald K. Grantham (Nebraska Army National Guard), Anthony D. Joseph (Fort Sill, Okla.), Kiwan Kim (Korea), Joshua Panek (Fort Campbell, Ken.), Araya Sayanhavikasit (Thailand), Benjamin J. Steichen (Korea), Larry Wright (Degree Completion Program), and Shawn R. Young (Korea).

BOLC graduates — Frazee, Young and Panek were the first Basic Officer Leaders Course, or BOLC, graduates to complete the Ordnance Officer Basic Course. BOLC is a new program conducted at Fort Benning, Ga. It is a seven-week course for all second lieutenants prior to their officer basic course. BOLC is not the Infantry Officer Basic Course, but rather a course designed to provide new lieutenants with an understanding of what leadership encompasses under stress and in field conditions.



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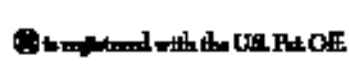
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Army needs more soldiers

Force size needs to be addressed by Sept. 30

By Nicholas J. Carter
Army News Service

Secretary of the Army Thomas White and Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki told the House Armed Services Committee July 18 that the Army may need another 40,000 troops in order to accomplish its missions.

“Given today’s mission profile, the Army is too small for the mission load it’s carrying,” Shinseki said. “The end strength that we have today does not satisfy the mission load that we have or that we can foresee coming out of this review.”

The review that Shinseki was referring to is the Department of the Defense’s Quadrennial Defense Review. The QDR is the Pentagon’s analysis of strategy and budgets required by Congress every four years.

White and Shinseki did not specify a targeted end strength goal for the Army, but endorsed the 40,000-soldier increase

advocated by Rep. Ike Skelton (D.Mo.), a member of the House Armed Services Committee. The active force currently stands at about 480,000 soldiers.

“The Army at its current level is the smallest it has been since 1950,” White said. “In 1950 we paid the price for a small Army, in terms of the Korean War. I am very nervous about shifting down any further.”

Concerns regarding the size of the force are also being addressed by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and officials conducting the QDR.

Rumsfeld’s team is reportedly considering the impact of a possible reduction in the number of active Army divisions.

The force size concerns need to be addressed before Sept. 30, because officials said that’s the deadline set by Congress for the Pentagon to submit its QDR report.

An officer and a gentleman departs APG

SPIDEL from front page

plished a lot.”

He said some of the highlights of his tenure include the installation of the new electrical substation in the Aberdeen Area, the increase in revenue generated by Top of the Bay, the opening of the Janet M. Barr Soldier Support Center in building 4305, several successful Morale, Welfare and Recreation-sponsored concerts, the renovation of troop barracks and the post Bowling Alley, and the demolition of several dilapidated buildings that needed tearing down.

He said the one event he will remember most is Hurricane Floyd, which dumped a foot of rain on the post in a 24-hour period in 1999.

“We had employees with flooded basements in their homes, who despite that, worked around the clock to keep this post functioning,” Spidel said. “They did the same through several snow storms. APG is full of people who put the post first.”

Recalling the post’s annual celebrations, such as Ordnance Week, Armed Forces Day, Military Appreciation Week and the Servicemember of the Year ceremonies, Spidel said he was proud to have been a part of so many historic events.

“I was fortunate to have seen three Army-Navy games, and attend the U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Air Force birthday celebrations,” he said.

Adding a bit of history of his own, Spidel initiated the first-ever partnership agreement between APG and the German Armed Forces Command, U.S. and Canada during a ceremony in April.

“The partnership has much to offer the soldiers of APG,” he said. “They should take advantage of it.”

Spidel said he could not have accomplished anything without the outstanding garrison staff he was “blessed to have.”

He particularly noted the performance of the current and former Garrison Command Sgts. Maj. Ronald Stallings and Dean Kolker, and the “superb assistance” of Joe Craten, Bob Silcox and the garrison administrative staff that included his secretary, Pat Shires.

“She kept me straight,” Spidel said of Shires. “I would have been lost without her.”

He expressed his gratitude to Maj. Gen. John C. Doesburg, commander of the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command and APG, and Gen. John G. Coburn, commander, U.S. Army

Materiel Command, for their support of garrison operations.

“They took the high moral ground at no small personal risk, in supporting what was right and fair to APG,” Spidel said, adding that numerous extremely complex issues concerning the post are frequently settled at higher levels, which most people know nothing about.

“Without their support, this would be a different place,” he said.

Spidel said he leaves with mixed emotions, excited by the new opportunity before him, yet reluctant to say good-bye to old friends.

“It’s tough to leave, but the good part is knowing I leave friends behind,” he said.

Spidel is headed to Heidelberg, Germany, to command the U.S. Army Materiel Command, Europe, where he will be responsible for critical maintenance and logistical support issues concerning organizations and units in U.S. Army Europe, Kosovo and Bosnia.

Although looking forward to the challenge, he said it would be hard to top some of the challenges and pleasures he faced on APG.


“It’s hard to envision being stationed in a better place,” he said.

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Cut cholesterol for a healthy heart

Courtesy of Sierra Military Health Services, Inc.

Lowering cholesterol has been proven to reduce the risk of heart disease — the number one killer in America. High cholesterol also plays a role in developing other diseases caused by clogged arteries, like hypertension and stroke. It is never too late to try to lower cholesterol. In most cases, all it takes are some healthy changes in eating and lifestyle habits.

Cholesterol is a type of fat in the blood. There are two main kinds of cholesterol: HDL and LDL. HDL helps prevent heart disease and can be increased through exercise. LDL contributes to heart disease by clogging arteries, and can be decreased by a low-fat, low-cholesterol diet.

“It’s the HDL/LDL ratio that determines heart disease risk, not one or the other,” said Richard A. Stein, M.D., chief of cardiac prevention and rehabilitation at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York. Regular exercise and a healthy diet are both important.

Saturated fat can raise LDL cholesterol levels more than anything else. Foods high in saturated fat include butter, cheese, whole milk, cream, ice cream and meat. The American Heart Association suggests that no more than 30 percent of total calories come from fat, and that daily intake of dietary cholesterol be less

than 300 milligrams (no more than 200 milligrams for people with coronary heart disease).

There are many ways to reduce fat and cholesterol intake. Lean red meat has all the protein and iron with less fat. Foods made with monounsaturated oils, like canola or olive oil, are lower in saturated fat than those made with coconut, palm or hydrogenated oils. Skim milk, egg substitutes and low-fat or nonfat dairy products have the same great taste as whole eggs and dairy products higher in fat.

According to the AHA, when regularly eaten as part of a low-fat, low-cholesterol diet,

soluble fiber can help lower blood cholesterol. Foods high in soluble fiber include oat bran, oatmeal, beans, peas, rice bran, barley, citrus fruits and strawberries.

Sometimes, diet and exercise are not enough to lower cholesterol levels. Different types of medications are available to lower cholesterol and triglycerides (another type of fat in the blood). The AHA recommends drug therapy based upon LDL cholesterol levels for people with coronary heart disease and for those at risk of developing it.

Consumers should check with their physician before changing their diet.



Agencies propose resolutions to issues

AFAP SYMPOSIUM, from front page
inclined to use the installation youth facilities, however van service may be provided on a trial basis to see if such a program would be cost-effective.

Issue -- Smoking in permanent party barracks

Non-smokers are exposed to second-hand smoke within the barracks. Smoke enters shared hallways and the rooms of all residents, including those of non-smokers, due to a shared ventilation system. This is a nuisance and a health hazard.

Recommendations -- Prohibit smoking in the barracks. Separate the quarters of smokers and non-smokers to different areas of the building. Create ventilated smoking areas within the barracks, away from the rooms of non-smokers, and prohibit smoking in all other areas of the barracks.

Resolution -- The Department of the Army does not prohibit smoking in individual service-member rooms in the barracks, and housing officials cannot monitor where residents smoke. Housing is tracking the requests for non-smoking rooms and is planning to set aside an area or floor as necessary, to address the issue. Housing has also submitted a job order for a cost estimate to install a ventilation system

within a designated area of permanent party barracks. When the funds become available, the project will be initiated.

Issue -- Re-Nu-It Center hours

The hours of the Re-Nu-It centers do not compliment the regular duty hours for most military personnel. With APG in two separate areas, some soldiers live in one area of post and work in the other. It is very difficult for these personnel to work around the hours of the centers and obtain and return the equipment and supplies necessary to maintain their housing areas.

Recommendations -- Increase the hours of operation to include some Saturday and evening hours. Replace a weekday with Sunday hours. Extend the hours during the spring and summer, when the centers are heavily-used. Hire additional staff if necessary, to cope with the additional hours.

Resolution -- The hours for the Re-Nu-It centers were recently changed to better serve the needs of the community. Currently the Aberdeen Area Re-Nu-It Center is open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. The Edgewood facility is open on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 6:15 p.m.

Post breaks ground for disposal facility

MAPS, from front page

Spidel said the process of safely destroying both chemical and smoke munitions in a single facility is an example of forward thinking, and the “smart” approach.

“The MAPS will protect the APG community and our environment for decades to come,” Spidel said.

Ross said the MAPS construction is “another step in the Army’s commitment to ensuring the health and safety of the communities we live in and the environment we all share.” Thanking those who played major roles leading up to the construction of the new facility, he said the MAPS is expected to safely dispose of recovered chemical non-stockpile and smoke munitions items, greatly reducing the need for open detonation. He assured attendees that protecting the workers, community members, and the surrounding environment is paramount.

“Operating this facility in a safe manner is our number one goal,” Ross said.

Col. Charles Fiala, district commander for the Baltimore Corps of Engineers who oversaw the design and executed the construction ontract for the MAPS, said the project was a team effort between the community and military.

The company who was

awarded the contract, John C. Grimberg Company, is expected to take two years to complete construction of the facility.

“Our highest priorities are projects such as the MAPS, which serve the best interests of the community and help protect the environment,” Fiala said.

James Bacon, Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization, said the facility was developed in partnership with the community, and added that safety of the worker, the community and

environment have been stressed throughout the facility’s design and development.

“The MAPS serves to enhance APG’s environmental restoration program, ensuring that future generations of Americans have a cleaner, better environment in which to work, play and enjoy,” Bacon said.

Only chemical munitions considered safe for handling will be processed in the MAPS. The facility is scheduled to begin operation after construction completion in mid-2003.

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Army spouses stronger than book

By Staff Sgt. Marcia Triggs
Army News Service

A book written by the wife of a retired officer has been receiving a lot of attention for depicting junior enlisted spouses as low-class women unable to pursue their dreams because of multiple pregnancies or lack of motivation.

Margaret Harrell, the author of "Invisible Women: Junior Enlisted Army Wives" featured the lives of three young spouses who have had to sacrifice their happiness in order to support their husbands' Army careers.

First there is 20-year-old Dana, who got married after completing one semester of college, and early in her marriage she had two unplanned pregnancies. Her family is financially unstable, and their first car was repossessed. Family support groups have been no help because she feels isolated from the other enlisted spouses because of her age. And she feels the officers' wives look down on her because her husband is only a private first class.

Then there is 16-year-old Jennifer, who had to not only deal with leaving her family behind but raising an infant. When she arrived at her husband's first duty station, no one told her about the Lending Closet, so they slept on the floor and she spent her days sitting inside an empty apartment.

Friends and the unit's family support group have helped Jennifer adapt to the military community, and she said that the Army has given them a better quality of life than they could have had in their hometown.

The final subject in the book is Toni. She's a 33-year-old native of New York with an associate's degree. When her husband enlisted as a heavy-wheel mechanic, she went from making \$19 an hour as a paralegal in New York to making minimum wage at a laundromat. At one point she looked forward to not working for a while. However, her husband, who was due to get promoted to specialist, was demoted to E-2 after failing to show up for formation on time. Therefore, she had no choice but to continue her minimum-wage job.

Toni's type A personality led her to befriend spouses of all ranks, and she eventually became the unit's family support group leader. She said that as long as her husband is happy, then she's happy.

People who have been in the military for a while know that their stories aren't isolated cases, which is the reason programs such as Army Family Team Building, Army Emergency Relief and Consumer Affairs/Financial Assistance exists.

The Army is representative of its nation, and not everyone has the fortitude to endure the hardships of moving, deployments and sometimes financial constraints. For the spouses who are taking care of their households, going to school or pursuing a career, the best way to dispel the book's viewpoint is to be proud of accomplishments and share experiences with others.

The spouse who seeks all the benefits the Army has to offer makes the best mentor for the younger more timid spouse. I'm not talking about the first sergeant's wife, but the feisty 24-year-old who is taking advantage of a dental assistant program she read about in the post newspaper.

It seems to some that spouses take on the rank of their husbands, and they put up barriers between themselves and the lower enlisted. At one point we have all been the new kid on the block and we know how much it can mean to know someone is looking out for us.

In the Army, soldiers are taught not to stereotype by equal opportunity advisers. But as a female African-American, I know it exists and will most likely always exist.

Stereotypes and generalizations will always be around, but everyone in the military community knows that the enlisted soldier corps has changed tremendously. Soldiers are enlisting in the Army older, more educated and with more work experience.

Their spouses come in different genders, ages and social classes. I'm the active-duty soldier in my household, which shows that spouses cannot be pigeonholed in a category. Regardless of the service member's rank or job position, spouses are individuals. They have their own personalities and aspirations.

Enlisted spouses run households, balance checkbooks, and pursue careers — and a lot of times they have to do it alone. But the truth is unless someone has had any contact with the military community they don't know the strength of an enlisted spouse.

The world may never know, but I know that spouses are the reasons so many service-members feel at peace leaving their homes to defend our country. So I want to say thank you to all spouses. Keep up the hard and so many times thankless work.

Link to original news item:
<http://www.dtic.mil/armylink/news/Jul2001/a20010711book.html>

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Beware of credit repair organizations

By Capt. Harper Cook
Fort Campbell Courier

Here's the bottom line: There is no legal way to quickly fix credit history. Advertisements often appear in newspapers, including local and base publications, claiming that you can "erase your bad credit" or "remove bankruptcies, liens, and bad loans from your credit file." These for-profit companies are known as credit repair organizations. Unlike some nonprofit organizations that can do the same thing, these companies target people with bad credit and promise, for a fee, that they can clean up your credit report so you can get a car loan, mortgage, or other credit.

The truth is, many of these companies can't deliver. Many are simply frauds. In 1996, Congress passed the Credit Repair Organizations Act. So that you can better protect yourself against these organizations, tuck these little legal gems away in your kit bag:

1. No one can legally remove accurate negative information from a credit report. This means that you are stuck with accurate reports for seven years (10 years for a bankruptcy).
2. You are not stuck with inaccurate or incomplete credit reports. In fact, federal law helps you dispute such inaccuracies

for free. The big three credit reporting agencies include:

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3. Trying to create a "new" credit file by applying for an Employer Identification Number to use instead of your social security number is both ineffective and illegal. (The Social Security Administration fraud line is 1-800-269-0271.)

4. If you decide to purchase the services of a credit repair organization, understand that they are regulated by federal law.
 - They must give you a copy of "Consumer Credit File Rights Under State and Federal Law" before you sign the contract.
 - They may not perform any services until they have your signature on a written contract.
 - Even after you have signed a written contract with a credit repair organization, you have a three-day waiting period during which you can cancel the contract.
 - Credit repair organizations may not charge you until they have completed the promised services.

For more information specific information about the Credit Repair Organization Act, contact the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-FTC-HELP, or see Consumer Protection information online at <http://www.ftc.gov>.

As with any contract, no deal is too good that you have to sign right away. Take time to allow your legal assistance office to review your contract. Any legitimate company should be happy to let you have a copy for an attorney to review. If they resist, just walk away.



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JULY 28
BOOK SIGNING AT PX**

Author Tom Philpott will hold a book signing at the Main PX from noon to 2 p.m. Philpott wrote *Glory Denied*, the saga of Jim Thompson, America's longest-held prisoner of war during the Vietnam conflict.

Jim Thompson's story is a wrenching tale of survival – first in the torture pits and on the long marches and starvation diets of a POW in Vietnam, and then as a returning soldier facing a tremendously changed culture at home.

**SUNDAY
JULY 29
CHAPLAIN CORPS ANNIVERSARY DINNER**

Aberdeen Area Chapel, building 2485, is hosting the Chaplain Corps' 227th anniversary dinner at 5 p.m. Everyone on post is invited, all congregations, all chapels and chapel activities. The chapel is providing the main dish and desserts. Families may bring salads, vegetables or bread. Singles may bring soft drinks. Everyone should bring an appetite.

For more information, call Chaplain (Maj.) Bill Knight, 410-278-4333.

“CARIBBEAN SOIREE”

The Guy's and Gal's Club will host a “Caribbean Soiree” featuring “The St. Veronicas Youth Steel Orchestra” at the Charlton-Miller VFW Post No. 6054, 206 Spesutia Road in Perryman. Proceeds will benefit the youth orchestra.

For tickets, contact Wilma Hubbard, 410-272-6633, or Barbara Cheatham, 410-272-5856. Food, exotic cocktails and beer will be served in an island atmosphere.

**TUESDAY
JULY 31
EFMP SPECIAL SWIM RATE**

Exceptional family members and their families are invited to swim at the Shore Pool for \$1.50. To make a reservation, contact EFMP Coordinator Reeshemah Bugg, 410-278-7474 or 7478.

**SATURDAY
AUGUST 4
WACVA MONTHLY MEETING**

The Women's Army Corps Veterans Association Maryland

Free State Chapter #70 will hold their next meeting of the Maryland Free State Chapter 10 a.m. at the Aberdeen Senior Citizen Center. All women who have served or are serving in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, Women's Army Corps, Regular Army, Army Reserve, Army National Guard and Army Nurse Corps are welcome to attend. Also welcome, as associate members, are women of the Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard.

For more information about the association, contact Wanda Story, 410-272-5040 or visit Web sites www.wacva.com or www.armywomen.org.

**SATURDAY
AUGUST 11
THE “LARRY TUCKER BAND”**

Charlton-Miller VFW Post No. 6054 presents the “Larry Tucker Band” featuring Harford County's own Harry El and Tyrone Brooks from 9 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door and are available at VFW Post 6054 or by contacting Senior Vice Commander Terry Robinson, 410-272-3444. Dress to impress.

**MONDAY
AUGUST 13
PROGRAM FOR EFMP**

The Parent Information Exchange presents “Moving with Special Needs” for exceptional family members, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Army Community Service, building 2754. If you need childcare call in advance space is limited. For information, call Reeshemah Bugg, EFMP coordinator, 410-278-7474 or 7478.

**FRIDAY
AUGUST 17
ALABAMA TO PERFORM BENEFIT CONCERT**

The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation will host the Metris 14th Annual Benefit Concert for Cystic Fibrosis, 7:30 p.m., at the Baltimore Arena. The event will feature Country Group of the Decade, Alabama. Tickets can be purchased from Ticketmaster, 410-481-SEAT.

For more information about the benefit concert, cystic fibrosis or the Cystic Fibrosis

**SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 9 to 16
ABERDEEN LIONS PLAN VALENTINE CRUISE**

The Aberdeen Lions Club is sponsoring a seven-night Valentine cruise to the Western Caribbean in 2002. The public is invited to join the Lions on the newest Norwegian Cruise Line, “Norwegian Sun,” from Miami to Georgetown, Grand Caymen; Roatan, Bay Islands; Belize City, Belize; and Cozumel, Mexico. Snorkel on the longest barrier reef in the Western Hemisphere, swim with dolphins or stingrays, or just relax on the ship.

The package includes complimentary round-trip transfers from Aberdeen to Baltimore-Washington International Airport, round-trip air from BWI to Miami, all meals and entertainment, all port charges and taxes, and a pre-cruise get-together. Call now and receive a \$50 shipboard credit per stateroom. Enjoy a romantic Valentine cruise while helping the Aberdeen Lions Club raise funds for their community service activities.

For information, call Lions club members Joyce or Ron Landbeck, 410-272-5649. For reservations, call Accent-on-Travel, 1-800-848-3273.

MWR UPDATE

Edgewood Arts & Crafts, building E-4440 is

a Morale, Welfare Recreation facility and is open to active and retired military, civilians, and contractors working on Aberdeen Proving Ground and their dependents, Thursday, 1 to 9 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information call 410-436-2153.

Woodshop Orientation

The woodshop will hold a safety orientation Aug. 4, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. The cost is the \$3 user fee. This class is required in order to use the woodshop.

Framing Class

A beginning matting and framing class will be held July 26 and Aug. 30, 5:30 to 9 p.m. Students must bring an 8 inch by 10 inch picture to class to frame. Register in advance, because class size is limited. Cost is \$15 plus supplies.

MWR TRAVEL WEBSITES

Reservations made easy using the Internet

For anyone thinking about that vacation or holiday travel, here are some Web sites to visit for leisure travel planning:

www.offdutytravel.com
www.satovacations.com
www.travelocity.com
www.expedia.com
www.priceline.com
www.air-fare.com
www.bestfares.com
www.cheapflights.com
www.alaskaair.com
www.americawest.com
www.aa.com
www.bahamasair.com
www.flycontinental.com
www.delta-air.com
www.hawaiianair.com
www.klm.nl

www.lufthansa.com
www.mexicana.com
www.flynwa.com
www.qantas.com.au
www.iflyswa.com
www.twa.com
www.ual.com
www.usair.com
www.disneyworld.com
www.disneyland.com
www.disneylandparis.com
www.4adventure.com
www.animalkingdom.com
www.tokyodisneyland.co.jp
www.usf.com
www.peterpan-bus.com
www.amtrak.com

For more information or assistance with any of these, call the Information, Ticketing and Registration Office at 410-278-4011 or 4621.

MOVIES

ADMISSION: ADULTS \$3, CHILDREN \$1.50

SWORDFISH

**Friday, July 27, 7 p.m.
Saturday, July 28, 9 p.m.**

Starring: John Travolta, Hugh Jackman



Suspenseful action drama in which Gabriel Shear, a charismatic and dangerous CIA operative fed up with American bureaucracy, uses sexy associate, Ginger, to coerce a computer hacker just released from prison, to steal \$9 billion from a DEA slush fund. (Rated R)



ATLANTIS: THE LOST EMPIRE (FREE ADMISSION)

Saturday, July 28, 7 p.m.

Animated

Milo Thatch dreams of completing the quest

begun by his late grandfather. When a long lost journal surfaces, providing new clues to the location, the action shifts into high gear. Milo leads Commander Rourke and his team to the elusive undersea Kingdom, but what they find there defies their expectations. (Rated PG)

The Civilian Welfare Fund is sponsoring the following upcoming trips:

Oct. 20 - Shop 'til you drop at Potomac Mills. The cost is \$20 per person for charter bus transportation.

Nov. 16 - Spend the evening at the Three Little Bakers Dinner Theater. The price is \$45 per person, including charter bus transportation, dinner and the Christmas Show.

Nov. 24 - Nothing gets you in the holiday spirit quite like Christmas in New York City. Enjoy the Radio City Music Hall Christmas Show, featuring the famous Rockettes. The cost is \$99 per person, including charter bus transportation and the show.

March 13-20 - Spend a

week in Ireland. CWF sponsored this trip in 2001 and found it so rewarding that we are going back to the land of beautiful green countrysides, charming hospitality and Irish pride. Places of particular interest will be Shannon, the Cliffs of Moher, Galway, Limerick, Killarney, the Dingle Peninsula, Blarney, Tipperary, Waterford, Cashel and Dublin. The price is \$1,185 per person and includes airfare, hotel stays, breakfasts, tours and most dinners.

Please call Angela Keithley or Jacqueline McKeever, at 410-278-4603/4771 for reservations and more information.

FINANCIAL TIP

New personal finance resource available
Courtesy of MilitaryReport.com

Military.com has added a new personal finance resource that provides information about military retirement planning, military banks, and military taxes for active duty, veteran, and retired military. In addition to military specific financial information, the site also includes information on general finances, such as credit card management, debt-consolidation, money market funds and the stock market. The resource is free.

<http://www.military.com/Finance/PersonalFinance/0,11882,80,00.html>

SOFTBALL UPDATE

The following results were reported for intramural softball for the week ending July 30.

American Division Results

July 16
USMC, 7; HHC 143rd, 3
HHC 16th, 8'; HHC 61st, 7
NCOA, 15; KUSAHC, 14

Schedule

Field No. 2
July 30
6:30 p.m., HHC 16th vs. HHC 143rd
7:30 p.m., NCOA vs. HHC 61st
8:30 p.m., USMC vs. KUSAHC
Aug. 1
Field No. 1
6:30 p.m., HHC 143rd vs. USMC
7:30 p.m., HHC 16th vs. HHC 61st
8:30 p.m., KUSAHC vs. NCOA

Standings

HHC 16th	8-0
USMC	8-1
NCOA	4-4
KUSAHC	4-5
HHC 143rd	3-5
HHC 61st	1-7

National Division Results

July 16
Company A 16th, 10;
Company E 16th, 8
Company C 16th, 9; USAF, 5
Schedule
July 30
Field No. 1
6:30 p.m., USMC vs. Company E 16th
7:30 p.m., USAF vs. Company A 16th
Aug. 1
Field No. 2
6:30 p.m., Company E 16th vs. Company A 16th
7:30 p.m., Company C 16th vs. USMC
Standings
USAF 6-1
Company C 16th 6-2
Company E 16th 4-1
Company A 16th 2-6
USMC 1-6
Edgewood Division Results
Games cancelled, rain

Standings

SBCCOM	7-1
Company B 143rd	7-1
Company C 143rd	4-3
Company A 143rd	3-6
CHPPM	1-6
520th TAML	1-6

OC&S LIBRARY

The Ordnance Center and Schools Library is located in the basement of building 3071. Hours are Monday and Thursday, 12 to 5 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday, 12 to 7 p.m., and Friday, 12 to 4 p.m.

LIBRARY BOOK CORNER



Fearless Jones by Walter Mosley

Brazen Virtue, by Nora Roberts

Conclave: A Novel of Passion and the Papacy by Greg Tobin

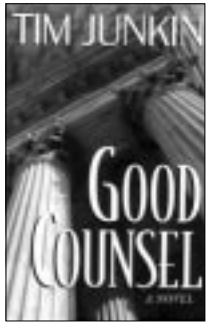
Dark Hollow
by John Connolly



Fury, by G. M. Ford

Entering Normal by Anne D. LeClaire

Good Counsel by Tim Junkin



The Judgment by Dudley w. Buffa

A King's Ransom by James Grippando

Virgin by Robin Maxwell



The operating hours of the Aberdeen Area library are Monday through Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Thursday and Friday, closed and Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m.

Edgewood Area library will be closed Sunday through Tuesday and Saturday; and open Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Thursday, 1:30 to 7:30 p.m. and Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Korea 50 years ago

Veteran recalls war, referees post sports

By Yvonne Johnson
APG News

For Red Lowman, being able to call the shots has been a big part of his life, in and out of the military. The retired Army sergeant major and Korean War veteran serves part time as a referee through the Aberdeen Proving Ground Garrison's Community Recreation Division calling intramural volleyball and softball games, a job he's held for 36 years.

Lowman entered the military two and one half years before he went to Korea, serving in the Army's Quartermaster Corps. He said corps designations did not matter once the war began, and units started training for their missions in Korea.

"Most of our senior non-commissioned officers were Infantry and they trained us like Infantry," Lowman said. "When they were done with us, we trained the new soldiers."

Recalling the journey to Korea, Lowman said his unit departed Fort Lewis, Wash. by ship reaching Pusan 51 days later. After offloading their equipment, they began the trek to their base camp.

"We could only travel at night so we stayed in train tunnels until dark," Lowman said. "It took us two days to go less than 150 miles."

A member of the 539th Quartermaster Company, 13th Quartermaster Battalion, Lowman said his unit got its first taste of war shortly after reaching their destination near the Inch'on River.

"We lost our first man to a sniper five minutes after we arrived," Lowman said. "War doesn't hit you until you see a member of your platoon drop."

During the same attack, half of his platoon was lost to shell-fire. Over time, many more were lost to rodent-borne diseases.

Eventually rotating home at the end of his Truman Year, an involuntary extension of forces imposed by then President Truman, Lowman left the military, but was not gone for long. Within 62 days he was back in the Army and back in Korea as a staff sergeant assigned to what he described as the "best assignment of my whole career."

He served with the 8082nd Korean Military Advisory Group, arriving in Tegu in January 1953, advising his Korean counterparts on all military matters. As the only American, Lowman advised three battalions.

"The depots would not accept any requests for materials unless my signature was on

it — in English and Korean," Lowman said.

He added that until they provided a stamp of his signature, he had to write his name in Korean.

Lowman left Korea in 1954 but eventually returned there to serve a total of 13 years. Subsequent assignments saw him leave the Quartermaster



Sgt. First Class Red Lowman

Corps for the Medical Corps and the Infantry before ending up in the Chemical Corps. He came to Aberdeen Proving Ground in 1975 as the command sergeant

major to the U.S. Army Chemical School once located on the Edgewood Area. Even before he retired, Lowman began serving as a referee for intramural sports. He said he enjoys staying active and being around soldiers.

"I worked seven different sports for years but I've had to slow it down to just the two," Lowman said. "Doctor's orders."

He said the lessons he learned in Korea are the same ones he learned throughout his life. He carries the most poignant one printed on a card in his wallet — "Smile and the world smiles with you. Grouch and you will grouch alone."

"You very seldom see me when I'm not smiling or getting along with people," Lowman said, adding that his philosophy helped him through his years as a sergeant major.

"I don't think you'll find anyone who says I didn't treat them fairly regardless of race, gender or religion," he said. "I figured they all took an oath and as long as they're living up to it, they're fine."

Noting that his kindness was not to be taken for weakness, he added that his soldiers knew their limitations.

"Step out of line, and I'll step on you," he said.

After a 30-year career, Lowman retired at APG in 1979.

Lowman and his wife of 24 years, Chong, live in Aberdeen. When not calling games, he works on his house and yard and attends meetings of the Korean Veterans' Association in Bel Air, while his wife and her sisters manage the Choun's Carryout, the only Korean restaurant in the area. Lowman is a lifetime member of the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Lowman has two daughters and one son, 17 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON

Retired Sergeant Maj. Red Lowman takes a break before heading to Aberdeen Proving Ground to umpire an intramural softball game. The Korean War veteran has been calling APG sporting events for 36 years.

U.S. agrees to peace talks in Kaesong

By Jim Caldwell
TRADOC

The United States moves toward peace talks with communist forces, agreeing to meet in Kaesong

June 29 - President Harry S. Truman authorizes Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway to tender an offer to the North Koreans and Chinese to negotiate a peace for settlement of the fighting. Truman chooses that course of action because, since Ridgway represents the military and it's viewed as a battlefield settlement, it does not carry official United States recognition of the two countries. It also accepts the fact that while China still claims it does not have control over its "volunteer" armies in Korea, a Chinese general can represent them.

The South Korean National Assembly adopts a resolution June 29 that demands China's withdrawal from Korea and unification of the country under the Republic of Korea government.

July 1-4 — Although there is a possibility of a truce, both sides are still shooting at each other. The Navy shells Wonsan July 1, even as Ridgway waits for a reply from the communists on his suggestion to hold peace talks on a hospital ship there. Allied war-planes hammer North Korean airfields July 2. The next day the communists and U.N. forces engage in the most savage artillery fight of the war near Inje in the east. The same day U.S. troops end a three-day battle and take a 3,500-foot mountain in the Iron Triangle.

July 2 — Truman presents the Congressional Medal of Honor to four soldiers in Washington. Those awarded the medal are Capts. Lewis L. Miller, South Dartmouth, Mass., and Raymond Harvey, Pasadena, Calif.; Master Sgt. Stanley T. Adams, Olathe, Kan., and Cpl. Einer H. Ingram, Tomahawk, Wis. Gen. Omar Bradley, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, presents the award posthumously to families of 11 Americans.

Since the Korean War began, 27 Americans have earned the highest U.S. battlefield honor.

July 3 - New York Governor Thomas Dewey, stopping in Honolulu July 3 on a Far East tour, says, "Every time the Soviets make a peace move, I get scared ... Every time Stalin smiles, beware." Assistant Defense Secretary W.J. McNeil tells the Senate Finance Committee the cost of the Korean War to the United States is from \$2-\$10 billion. He says however that without the war, the U.S. might have spent about \$8 billion of the \$10 billion charged to Korea on rearming and operations.

Peace talks date agreed upon, negotiations continue

July 5-11, 1951 — The communist military commanders have agreed to send a delegation to Kaesong on July 8 to discuss with Ridgway's representatives to set a date to start formal peace talks. Ridgway accepts the offer July 5 and throughout the day and on July 6, the two sides work out a system for safe passage for their negotiating teams.

July 7 — Korean refugees whose homes are along the 38th Parallel refuse to leave crowded, disease-infested camps around Seoul for new camps farther south because they hope that the truce talks will allow them to return home soon.

July 8 - The liaison teams meet for three-and-a-half hours in Kaesong and agree that talks to establish ground rules for full talks will begin July 10. Joining Vice Admiral Charles Turner Joy for the United Nations team are Air Force Maj. Gen. L.C. Craigie; Maj. Gen. H.I. Hodes, Rear Adm. Arleigh A. Burke and Republic of Korea Maj. Gen. Paik Dun Yup and North Korean Army Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Nam Il. Making up the U.N. team are Air Force Col. Andrew J. Kinney, Marine Col. James C. Murray and ROK Lt. Col. Soo Young Lee. A North Korean colonel and lieutenant colonel and Chinese lieutenant colonel make up the enemy team. Kaesong is the ancient Korean capital and below the 38th Parallel. When the war began, its population was around 45,000. Now the city is in rubble and has been deserted.

July 8-9 — About 35 MiG 15s attack 24 Air Force F-86 Sabre jets over northwest Korea. American pilots reported damaging two of the Russian-built planes. The next day other American fliers report shooting down three MiGs over Pyongyang. President Truman nominates Lt. Gen. James Van Fleet, Eighth Army commander, for promotion to general.

July 10 — Senator Paul Douglas, D-Ill., writes to Secretary of Defense Marshall that many Americans and most Asians would interpret a peace that settled on the 38th Parallel as a UN loss. He suggests that the truce line be 100 miles above the Parallel. Air Force and communist pilots fight the longest air battle of the war near Manchuria. For 20 minutes, 30 MiG pilots take on 34 F-86s. Air Force pilots claim three MiG kills. No American losses are reported.

July 11 — The Pentagon puts the American casualty figure as of July 6 at 78,726. The number includes 13,176 dead GIs. The same source had earlier reported that U.S. estimated Chinese and North Korean total casualties are almost 1.2 million through June 25.

Fighting light during peace talks

July 12-18 — Truce talks stall after two days because communists refuse to admit Western reporters to Kaesong. Adm. Charles Turner Joy will not enter the perimeter because of the incident. Ridgway waited until talks had started to admit allied reporters to the negotiations site. He tells the communists they must get rid of their armed guards and make Kaesong a neutral site.

July 13 - Marshall Tito of Yugoslavia and Thailand's Premier Phibul Songgram say the only reason the communists want peace in Korea is to rebuild forces for future aggression in Europe and South Asia.

July 14 — The communists claim in a radio broadcast that talks were stopped for "trifling" reasons. Elements of the Eighth Army take the hills overlooking Kumsong, an enemy supplies center. The State Department rejects a July 10 Soviet note in

which it complains of being slandered in U.S. statements about the Japanese peace treaty. The Reds also said the U.S.-sponsored treaty is of "an obviously aggressive character." United States representatives say the USSR still holds 20,000 Japanese war prisoners and only took part in the war against Japan for six days.

July 15 — Two major command changes occur within the Eighth Army. Maj. Gen. Clovis E. Byers, former Army deputy chief of staff for personnel, takes command of the X Corps. Lt. Gen. Edward M. Almond, who had been assigned as "temporary X Corps commander" by Gen. MacArthur, will be commandant of the Army War College.

Maj. Gen. Joseph S. Bradley turns command of the 25th Infantry Division over to Maj. Gen. Ira P. Swift.

About 10,000 Iranian communists stage an anti-U.S. demonstration in Teheran on the arrival of W. Averell Harriman, who is President Truman's representative to Iran.

July 17 — Not a single American died in fighting during a 24-hour period that ends at 5 p.m. It's the first full 24 hours in which no GIs were killed since July 9, 1950. But it doesn't last long as Eighth Army units continue their heavy patrolling above lines Kansas and Wyoming.

July 18 - The Soviet news agency, Tass, reports that the communist agenda in the talks will include discussions on: Withdrawal of all foreign troops from Korea, designation of a truce line and demilitarized zone between communist and U.N. forces, a solid approach to ending the fighting, a control commission to ensure the DMZ is not violated by either side, and repatriation of communist POWs. Fighting continues as events unfold at Kaesong, but at a much lower level than before.

Ridgway has a plan prepared by Lt. Gen. Van Fleet for the Eighth Army to move north to a Pyongyang-Wonsan line. Van Fleet asks Ridgway not to order the operation until Sept. 1 unless there is clear evidence of a deterioration of enemy forces, a need to capture more territory or the Eighth Army is strengthened with additional forces needed to ensure success of the plan.

The Department of Defense reports the smallest number of Americans killed in Korea in one week, 413, since August 1950. The U.S. Army announces that rotation of officers and soldiers from Korea will average 30,000 for July through September. By July 10, 32,000 military personnel have rotated from Korea, the announcement says.

Peace negotiations slowly progress

July 19-25, 1951 — Preliminary negotiations to set the agenda for full cease-fire talks hit a snag in Kaesong. From the beginning, the Chinese-North Korean representatives insist that United Nations forces leave Korea before there can be an armistice. The U.N. team rejects the demand. On July 19, Secretary of State Dean Acheson says the U.N. will be in Korea until peace is achieved. The stalemate exists until the Chinese agents request a four-day break, from July 21-24. When the two teams meet again July 25, the communists no longer insist on the withdrawal before negotiations.

July 19 — Truman says that a charge by Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, (R-Wis.), that Defense Secretary George C. Marshall is conspiring with the Soviets, is the silliest thing he's ever heard.

July 20 — The New York Times claims that 37,000 North and South Koreans cleared from the combat zones around the 38th Parallel are living in camps near Seoul in conditions "worse than any animal kept by an American farmer." The story contrasts with a statement made by Rudi Uit den Hogaard of Holland, U.N. welfare officer in Korea, at The Hague July 13 that U.N. relief programs had saved 8 million Koreans.

Conservative Party rally that the Labor Party has been soft on communists, cost the country international prestige and by spending on socialism, has cost more than it did to defeat Hitler.

July 23 — President Truman tells Congress that, despite Korean peace talks, world instability may require raising U.S. military strength above the current goal of 3.5 million. He cited events in Iran, Yugoslavia and Indochina. Truman asks for a tax hike of \$10 billion and credit controls along with price, wage and rent controls.

July 23-24 — The Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers in Europe opens at Marly, near Paris. Gen. Dwight Eisenhower said SHAPE represents the first international military alliance in history meant to "preserve peace and not to wage war." On July 24, representatives of nations at the Paris Conference on a European Army recommended adoption of a 50-year agreement to pool their armed forces to protect the continent. Those signing the declaration are France, Italy, Luxembourg, Belgium and Germany. The Netherlands, the United States, Great Britain, Canada, Denmark, Norway and Portugal attended as observers.

July 25 — Gen. Douglas MacArthur tells the Massachusetts Legislature in Boston that he was fired for trying to arrange peace talks in exactly the same way the United States pursued negotiations, with the U.N. commander making the overture to the Red commander. MacArthur denies he's on a political campaign, but says individual "American enterprise, American skill and American courage" have saved the country from "the ineptitude of our leaders" in foreign and domestic arenas.

Truman appoints Gen. Omar N. Bradley to a third term as chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, beginning Aug. 15.

(Editor's note: The primary sources for this series are "United States Army in the Korean War - Ebb and Flow, November 1950-July 1951," Center for Military History, 1988, and "Facts on File, Weekly World News Digest, 1951." Jim Caldwell is a member of the Training and Doctrine Command Public Affairs team.)



Photo courtesy www.army.mil
Combat engineers drill holes for TNT as they rebuild a road that caved in during heavy rainfall in Korea, July 1951.

Grant assumes command of 143rd Ordnance Battalion

By Yvonne Johnson
APG News

In a continuation of a time-honored tradition, the soldiers of the 143rd Ordnance Battalion gathered on McBride Parade Field in the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground to salute outgoing battalion commander, Lt. Col. Francis R. Merritt, and welcome the incoming commander, Lt. Col. Anthony T. Grant, during the change of command ceremony on July 12.

Staff Sgt. Monique Palmer, drill sergeant for Company A 143rd, opened the ceremony welcoming guests and post leaders, including Col. Robert J. Spidel, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander.

Col. John R. Hills, commander, 61st Ordnance Brigade led the ceremony.

Hills said that the soldiers assembled on the field were the best description of Merritt's contributions to the Ordnance Center and Schools and the U.S. Army.

"Be proud of your accomplishments," he said. "Soldiers you have trained over the past two years now stand guard around the world."

Hills welcomed Grant to APG, telling him to lead his soldiers with confidence.

"They will give you 110 percent in return," Hills said.

He recognized Chief Warrant Officer Charles Hockersmith and the 287th Army Band from the Delaware National Guard for providing the ceremony's music.

In farewell, Merritt thanked Morale, Welfare and Recreation, the Hoyle Gym staff, Edgewood Area Troop Medical Clinic personnel, dining facility managers and battalion officers, noncommissioned officers and cadre for "supporting and serving our soldiers."

"I will never forget your intensity or desire to win," Merritt said.

Crediting "two of the very best command sergeants major around" with contributing to his success, Merritt thanked current APG Garrison and former 143rd battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Stallings, "for your training and mentorship," and current battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Sam Brinson "for being

my right hand and my friend."

Grant thanked the Merritt family for helping ease his family's transition into the community and said he was "proud to take the reigns of such an outstanding battalion."

"I have aspired for this my whole career," Grant said. "Battalion command is the goal of every young lieutenant or captain."

He added that he is looking forward to working with Brinson and the rest of the battalion staff.

"I can't help but be excited with such a proud staff," he said. "I know they will help motivate and lead these fine soldiers."

Chaplain (Capt.) Sean McCammon delivered the invocation. Maj. Gregory Peterson, executive officer, commanded the troops.

Following the passing of the battalion colors, the ritual signifying the passing of command, Hills inducted Merritt into the Ordnance Order of Samuel Sharp, an elite honor within the Ordnance Corps.

Lt. Col. Anthony T. Grant comes to APG from the Pentagon where he served in the Office of the Secretary of Defense as military deputy to the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition Reform.

His military schools include the Ordnance Officer Basic and Advanced courses, the Combined Arms Services Staff School and the Command and General Staff College. Previous assignments include Korea, Hawaii, Fort Bragg, N.C., Haiti, and the U.S. Army Personnel Command in Alexandria, Va.

Grant is married to Lt. Col. Jill Grant, U.S. Army Judge Advocate General Corps. They have one daughter Alicia and two sons, Billy and Jimmy.

The 143rd Ordnance Battalion trains soldiers in Advanced Individual Training courses for the Self-Propelled Field Artillery System Mechanic (63D10), Fuel and Electrical Repairer (63G10), Wheeled Vehicle Repairer (63W10) and Tracked Vehicle Mechanic (63Y10) courses. Students are assigned to companies A, B and C. Battalion staff and cadre are assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company.



Photo courtesy APG PHOTO LAB
Col. John R. Hills, commander 61st Ordnance Brigade, hands the 143rd Ordnance Battalion banner to incoming commander, Lt. Col. Anthony T. Grant, as Command Sgt. Maj. Sam Brinson, left, and outgoing commander, Lt. Col. Francis R. Merritt, obscured by the flags, look on. Merritt becomes the 61st Ordnance Brigade executive officer.

APG day care hosts Stand For Children Day



Photo by VAUN SMITH
From left, Lance Doan, Tim Mason, Jaguar Haack and Sylvia Mason try out the bubble play at the Youth Center during the third annual Stand for Children Day.

By Marguerite Towson
APG News

Over 130 children, parents, childcare providers and support staff gathered together on June 27 to celebrate the third annual Stand for Children Day at Aberdeen Proving Ground. The Family Day Care Program hosted the event at the Aberdeen Area Youth Center.

Stand for Children Day is a nationwide grassroots movement for children and families sponsored annually by the Children's Defense Fund.

Activities included face-painting, "goop," make-a-snack, jewelry making, bubbles, water play and crab soccer. Children also had the opportunity to tour an APG fire truck and an ambulance.

Beverly Hartgrove, family childcare training and curriculum specialist from Child and Youth Services, provided "goop," as she called it, just for the occasion. The clear concoction made of 32 envelopes of Knox gelatin was given to the children along with medicine droppers and food coloring so they could give it some color.

"The children had fun letting it slide through their fingers, but after a while the heat turned it into liquid," Hartgrove said. "Anything messy or having to do with water was the most fun."

"Another really big hit was snack making," she said. "Of course, children love to eat."

Snacks included tortillas with cream cheese or peanut butter. The children used Froot Loops, pretzels and other items to make faces on their tortillas before eating them.

The children enjoyed cooling off when the

water sprinkler was turned on.

"It was great fun for the day," said Hartgrove. "Everyone pulled together to make the event a memorable one."

"The kids just loved it," she said. "It took about two months for us to plan it and it came together really well. We also had excellent support from the Youth Center."

Childcare providers and parents brought lunches, drinks, picnic blankets and lawn chairs.

The school age children enjoyed sack races and stilts.

Gutter play was a new item added this year. White plastic gutters of different lengths along with large waffle blocks, tennis balls, ping-pong balls, small trucks, boats, and water provided an opportunity to experiment with gravity and motion. Children watched to see how far a ball could roll if gutters were set on different levels.

School age children also demonstrated spin-art pictures and helped younger children.

Family Day Care's goal is to spotlight the importance of role in children's lives. Hartgrove said that photos of Stand for Children Day are posted on the bulletin board at the Child Development Center and Family Support Services for parents to see as they enter the building.

Other key planners for the event included Gail Smith and Kathy Mitchell, family child care directors for the Aberdeen and Edgewood areas, respectively

Learn the facts about thunderstorm safety

By Susie Ashby
Installation Safety Division

According to the National Climatic Data Center, lightning is the most dangerous and frequently encountered weather hazard that most people experience each year. It is the second most frequent killer in the United States with nearly 100 deaths and 500 injuries each year. The earth has 100 lightning strikes per second (over three trillion per year), and 2,000 thunderstorms at any one time.

Maryland is noted for its humid summers and severe thunderstorms, and ranks eighth in lightning deaths annually. Thunderstorms develop when cold upper air sinks and warm moist air rises, cumulonimbus clouds or "thunderheads" develop. Thunderstorms may occur singly, in clusters, or in lines. It is then possible for several thunderstorms to affect one location, or a single thunderstorm to affect one location for an extended period of time, causing very severe weather.

Severe thunderstorms can bring heavy rains, which can cause flash flooding, strong winds, hail, lightning and tornadoes.

Lightning is a major threat during a thunderstorm. It is an electrical discharge that results from the buildup of static electricity between clouds and the ground. It always accompanies a thunderstorm. When the buildup is strong enough, lightning appears as a "bolt." This flash of light can remain within the clouds, occur between clouds, or strike toward the ground several miles from the parent cloud. Because light travels much faster than sound, lightning can be seen long before the thunder is heard.

To estimate the number of miles you are from a storm, count

the seconds between a flash of lightning and the next clap of thunder. Then, divide this number by five and you have determined your distance from the storm.



If you are caught outdoors during a storm, avoid natural lightning rods such as tall, isolated trees in an open area and metal objects such as fences, golf clubs and metal tools. Most people struck by lightning are struck while on a golf course.

Sometimes hail is produced by strong thunderstorms. It can

be smaller than a pea or as large as a baseball, and can be very destructive to plants and crops. If you are caught in a hailstorm, you should take cover immediately. Pets and livestock are particularly vulnerable to hail, so bring them to a shelter.

When the weather conditions are such that a severe storm (damaging winds 58 miles per hour or more, or hail three quarters of an inch in diameter or greater) is likely to develop, the National Weather Service issues a severe thunderstorm watch. This is the time to locate a safe place in the home and tell family members to watch the sky and listen to the radio or television for more information.

A severe thunderstorm warning is issued when a severe thunderstorm has been sighted or indicated by weather radar.

At that point, the danger is very serious and everyone should go to a safe place, turn on a battery-operated radio or television and wait for the 'all clear' from the authorities.

Prepare yourself and your family for the inconvenience of loss of electricity, fallen trees and branches, and other disruptions of the routine associated with Maryland's spring and summer storms.

Learn to identify the dark, domineering and threatening clouds with distant thunder that are associated with severe storms. Know the difference between a storm watch and a storm warning.

Keep flashlight and radio or TV batteries, and other emergency supplies on hand to suit your specific needs during this type of event.

Be proactive and prepared, not caught off guard and unaware.

